

Chapters and Content for School of Nursing Dissertations

Chapter 1

- This chapter presents an overview of problem and concludes with problem statement/purpose and research question(s).
 - This is the place where the writer makes a compelling argument for WHY this research is important
 - NOT as in-depth as Chapter 2 but should include facts to support the importance of the research: number of persons affected by the problem, costs of the problem, and/or impact of the problem on the health care system
 - Should introduce the reader to your conceptual framework, design, and methods

Chapter 2

- This chapter includes the review of the germane literature and makes a case for how the research addresses gaps and/or design issues from published studies.
 - Include search strategy, databases used, search results
 - Link research questions/problems with gaps in the literature (for example, the exclusion or underrepresentation of specific populations, age groups, ethnic groups) and/or design and method concerns (for example, all research to date used cross-sectional designs and the question can best be answered using an experimental design)
- This chapter also includes a discussion of the chosen theoretical framework and rationale for choice.

Chapter 3

- This chapter discusses the research design. The following items should be included; these items may vary according to choice of method (qualitative versus quantitative)
 - Sample and Setting
 - Inclusion/exclusion criteria
 - Recruitment
 - Type of sampling
 - Methods
 - Design
 - Procedures
 - Measurements
 - Descriptions of Instruments/Interview Questions
 - Psychometrics
 - Data collection procedure and schedule
 - Data analyses

Chapter 4

- This chapter contains the results. Begin with a description of the sample; note attrition rates or response rates. Some writers find it helpful to present the results by restating each research question and reporting the pertinent results.

Chapter 5

- This is the “Discussion” chapter. This is the place where obtained results are compared to findings in the literature. This is an opportunity for the writer to offer possible reasons why the results in this study are (or are not) congruent with the findings in the literature. Strengths and limitations are also considered in this chapter. Areas for future study should also be addressed.